

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of selecting and accessing information or services by touching
marked items on a physical document, for use in a user system connected to a
communication network comprising one or more servers, the method comprising the
steps of:
- 10 identifying a physical document, the physical document comprising one or
more pages;
 identifying a page of the physical document;
 determining a position of a point pressed on a touch foil, the touch foil
being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical document, the
identified page comprising one or more marked items, and the touch foil being pressed at
15 a point corresponding to a selected marked item;
 identifying the selected marked item by referring to a hyperlink table, the
hyperlink table comprising an indication of a position of each marked item on the
identified page;
 identifying information or a service associated with the selected marked
20 item by referring to the hyperlink table, the hyperlink table comprising, for each marked
item of each page of the document, identification on a server of the information or the
service associated with the selected marked item; and
 accessing the information or the service associated with the selected
marked item.
- 25 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of identifying a
physical document further comprises the step of:
 accessing the hyperlink table associated with the identified physical
document.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of identifying information or a service associated with the selected marked item by referring to the hyperlink table comprises the step of:
- 5 determining, by referring to the hyperlink table, a destination address in the communication network where the information or the service associated with the selected marked item can be accessed.
4. The method according to claim 3 wherein:
- 10 the communication network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network;
the servers are Web servers;
the user system comprises a Web browser;
the destination address is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL address); and
the information or the service comprises at least one Web page.
- 15 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the physical document has a form and comprises a physical surface and a material, wherein the physical surface comprises an engraved, a printed, a painted, or a written surface, wherein the material comprises paper, wood, or plastic, and wherein the form comprises a newspaper,
- 20 magazine, book, catalog, geographical map, photograph, or painting.
6. The method according to claim 1 wherein a marked item on a physical document comprises a word, a letter, an icon, a graphic, a symbol, or a mark.
- 25 7. The method according to claim 1 where the hyperlink table comprises additional information related to the physical document, the additional information comprising a title, an author, and a date, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:
- accessing the additional information.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the physical document comprises a plurality of pages and wherein the identified page is one page of the plurality of pages.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the touch foil comprises a transparent touch foil, the touch foil being placed and aligned over the identified page of the physical document.

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10. A system comprising:

a user system comprising:

means for identifying a physical document, the physical document comprising one or more pages;

means for identifying a page of the physical document;

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means for determining a position of a point pressed on a touch foil, the touch foil being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical document, the identified page comprising one or more marked items, and the touch foil being pressed at a point corresponding to a selected marked item;

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means for identifying the selected marked item by referring to a hyperlink table, the hyperlink table comprising an indication of a position of each marked item on the identified page;

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means for identifying information or a service associated with the selected marked item by referring to the hyperlink table, the hyperlink table comprising, for each marked item of each page of the document, identification on a server of the information or the service associated with the selected marked item; and

means for accessing the information or the service associated with the selected marked item.

11. The system of claim 10:
further comprising the touch foil;
wherein the user system is connected to a communication network
5 comprising one or more servers; and
further comprising a transmitting means between the touch foil and the
user system for transmitting the position of the points pressed on the touch foil.
12. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the computer
10 program comprising:
a step to identify a physical document, the physical document comprising
one or more pages;
a step to identify a page of the physical document;
a step to determine a position of a point pressed on a touch foil, the touch
15 foil being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical document,
the identified page comprising one or more marked items, and the touch foil being
pressed at a point corresponding to a selected marked item;
a step to identify the selected marked item by referring to a hyperlink
table, the hyperlink table comprising an indication of a position of each marked item on
20 the identified page;
a step to identify information or a service associated with the selected
marked item by referring to the hyperlink table, the hyperlink table comprising, for each
marked item of each page of the document, identification on a server of the information
or the service associated with the selected marked item; and
25 a step to access the information or the service associated with the selected
marked item.

13. A method of creating hyperlinks by touching marked items on a physical document, for use in a user system connected to a communication network comprising one or plurality of servers, the method comprising the steps of:
- creating a hyperlink table for a physical document, the physical document comprising one or more pages;
 - identifying a page of the physical document;
 - determining a position of points pressed on a touch foil, the touch foil being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical document, the identified page comprising one or more marked items, the touch foil being pressed at points corresponding to a marked item;
 - storing in the hyperlink table an identification of the physical document for each page of the physical document;
 - storing in the hyperlink table an identification of the identified page;
 - storing in the hyperlink table an identification within the communication network of information or a service associated with each marked item; and
 - storing, in the hyperlink table, positions of points corresponding to marked items, the hyperlink table comprising, for each marked item, an indication of its position on the identified page.
14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the step of storing in the hyperlink table an identification within the communication network of information or a service associated with each marked item comprises the step of:
- storing a destination address in the communication network where the information or the service associated with the selected marked item can be accessed.
15. The method according to any claim 14 wherein:
- the communication network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network;
 - the servers are Web servers;
 - the user system comprises a Web browser;

the destination address is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL address); and
the information or the service is at least one Web page.

16. The method according to claim 13 wherein the physical document has a
5 form and comprises a physical surface and a material, wherein the physical surface
comprises an engraved, a printed, a painted, or a written surface, wherein the material
comprises paper, wood, or plastic, and wherein the form comprises a newspaper,
magazine, book, catalog, geographical map, photograph, or painting.

10 17. The method according to claim 13 wherein a marked item on a physical
document comprises a word, a letter, an icon, a graphic, a symbol, or a mark.

18. The method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of:
storing in the hyperlink table additional information related to the
15 document, the additional information comprising a title, an author, and a date.

19. The method according to claim 13 wherein the physical document
comprises a plurality of pages and wherein the identified page is one page of the plurality
of pages.

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20. A system comprising:

a user system comprising:

means for creating a hyperlink table for a physical document, the
physical document comprising one or more pages;

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means for identifying a page of the physical document;

means for determining a position of points pressed on a touch foil,
the touch foil being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical
document, the identified page comprising one or more marked items, the touch foil being
pressed at points corresponding to a marked item;

means for storing in the hyperlink table an identification of the physical document for each page of the physical document;

means for storing in the hyperlink table an identification of the identified page;

5 means for storing in the hyperlink table an identification within the communication network of information or a service associated with each marked item; and

means for storing, in the hyperlink table, positions of points corresponding to marked items, the hyperlink table comprising, for each marked item, an
10 indication of its position on the identified page.

21. The system of claim 20:

further comprising the touch foil;

wherein the user system is connected to a communication network
15 comprising one or a plurality of servers; and

further comprising a transmitting means between the touch foil and the user system for transmitting the position of the points pressed on the touch foil.

22. The system of claim 19, wherein the touch foil comprises a transparent
20 touch foil, the touch foil being placed and aligned over the identified page of the physical document.

23. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, the computer program comprising:

25 a step to create a hyperlink table for a physical document, the physical document comprising one or more pages;

a step to identify a page of the physical document;

a step to determine a position of points pressed on a touch foil, the touch foil being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical document,

the identified page comprising one or more marked items, the touch foil being pressed at points corresponding to a marked item;

a step to store in the hyperlink table an identification of the physical document for each page of the physical document;

5 a step to store in the hyperlink table an identification of the identified page;

a step to store in the hyperlink table an identification within the communication network of information or a service associated with each marked item; and

10 a step to store, in the hyperlink table, positions of points corresponding to marked items, the hyperlink table comprising, for each marked item, an indication of its position on the identified page.